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NOTES AND BRIEF ARTICLES

Professor J. C. Arthur, one of the editors of MYCOLOGIA and a large contributor both to it and *North American Flora,* was elected President of the Botanical Society of America at the recent meeting in Baltimore.

Mr. James Birch Rorer is now Mycologist of the Associacion de Agricultores del Ecuador, with headquarters at Guayaquil.

Dr. Charles T. Gregory, formerly assistant professor of plant pathology at Cornell University, has entered the Bureau of Plant Industry as extension pathologist in Truck and Forage Crop Diseases for the State of Indiana, with headquarters at Purdue University.

Mr. W. H. Tisdale, formerly scientific assistant in cereal disease investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry, has become the head of the department of botany and plant pathology in the North Carolina College of Agriculture.

Dr. George M. Reed has resigned his position as professor of botany in the University of Missouri to take up work on the smuts of cereals as a pathologist of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Mr. J. H. Muncie, formerly assistant in plant pathology at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and recently pathologist with the Plant Disease Survey, Bureau of Plant Industry, has accepted the position of pathologist at the new field laboratory of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station at Girard, Pennsylvania.

Dr. A. G. Johnson, associate professor of plant pathology at the University of Wisconsin, has accepted an appointment as pathologist in cereal disease investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry.

Dr. V. B. Stewart died of pneumonia on December 3, aged thirty years. He held a research position as assistant professor of plant pathology at Cornell University for five years, during which time he made numerous contributions to his science. The most notable of these concern diseases of horticultural and ornamental nursery stock. On July 1 last he became pathological adviser to the eastern market inspectors of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This work had to do particularly with detecting incipient disease in shipments of perishable plant products intended for the army and navy. Exposure in the performance of this duty led to the fatal attack.

The Phytopathologists at their recent meeting in Baltimore voted enthusiastically to continue the various kinds of war work begun during the past two years. Dr. C. L. Shear was elected president of the society for the coming year.

A serious gumming disease of old beech trees at Burnham Beeches, supposed to be due to *Bulgaria polymorpha,* was described in the *Annals of Applied Biology* for 1917 by R. J. Tabor and Kate Barratt.

Two new fungi, parasitic on the leaves of Cyclamen, have recently been described by Dr. Trelease in volume 9 of the *Transactions of the Illinois Academy of Science.* One is *Ramularia cyclaminicola* and the other *Phyllosticta cyclaminicola.*

Mr. S. C. Bruner, of the Cuban Experiment Station, has studied a new canker occurring on the trunk and larger branches of *Eucalyptus* and described the causal fungus as *Diaporthe cubensis.* Some species of *Eucalyptus* are found to be entirely immune to this disease.

Among the many interesting specimens collected by Mr. Percy Wilson in Sullivan County, New York, last summer, may be mentioned *Fomitiporella betulina,* on yellow birch; *Elfvingia megaloma,* on rhododendron; and *Funalia stuppea,* on poplar. Sullivan County is within the Local Flora range.

"Peach-Growing," by H. P. Gould, published by the Macmillan Company, contains 25 pages devoted to peach diseases caused by fungi, among them brown-rot, peach-scab, leaf-curl, powdery mildew, rust, crown-gall, root rot, and several other diseases.

In the first number of *Botanical Abstracts,* which appeared last autumn, eight pages are devoted to Plant Pathology under the editorship of Donald Reddick, and a page to the Taxonomy of Non-Vascular Cryptogams, with J. R. Schramm as editor.

This valuable new journal makes an excellent impression and we wish for it the greatest success.

In *Science* for December 27, 1918, Dr. A. H. Graves discusses the results of his investigations in the vicinity of New York City relative to immunity in the chestnut to the canker disease. No immune trees were found, but a number of resistant trees were located, which, according to Dr. Graves, give promise of highly resistant strains through inbreeding and crossing with resistant oriental species.

The very mild autumn weather gave rise to considerable mushroom growth. Mr. W. H. Ballou found near White Plains, on December 21, the following specimen in a growing condition: *Pleurotus ostreatus, Pleurotus serotinus, Hypholoma perplexum, Collybia velutipes, Elfvingia fomentaria, Ganoderma sessile,* and *Phlebia radiata.*

Volume I of the *Memoirs of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden,* issued July 6, 1918, contains papers presented at the dedication of the laboratory building and plant houses in April, 1917. Of the 33 papers published in this handsome volume of 521 pages and many illustrations, 10 are mycological in character, contributed by Atkinson, Dodge, Jackson, Kunkel, Metcalf, Murrill, Olive, Reed, Shear, and Smith.

The Rose Canker and Its Control is the subject of a *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station*, published in May, 1918, under the authorship of Dr. P. J. Anderson. This disease, sometimes called the crown-canker of the rose, is comparatively new, having been known as a parasite only two years. The causal fungus is *Cylindrocladium scoparium* Morgan. A full description of the fungus and its effects, as well as various methods of control, are given in the bulletin mentioned.

A recent paper on Some Singapore Boletinae, by Patouillard and C. F. Baker, contains descriptions of 16 new species of Boleti collected during a period of frequent showers in the Singapore Botanical Gardens. These specimens are as follows: *Boletus aureo-mycetinus, B. spinifer, B. tristis, B. phaeocephalus, B. nigricans, B. umbrinellus, B. veluticeps, B. cyanopus, B. viscidulus, B. retisporus, B. pernanus, Boletopsis corrugatus, Boletopsis icterinus, Boletopsis singaporensis, Phylloporus malaccensis,* and *Strobilomyces porphyrius.*

Professor F. S. Earle has been sending a number of specimens of woody and fleshy fungi to the Garden herbarium from Porto Rico, where Mr. Edgar Nelson has now joined him. Regarding the gill-fungi, Professor Earle writes, under date of December 24, "They are certainly very rare in the region of Rio Piedras, being chiefly represented by species of *Marasmius* and *Lepiota.* They are very local and only appear when weather conditions are just right. I do not doubt, however, that the Island will yet afford a long list of them."

Severe parasitic wood-rots of peach trees, due to *Coriolus prolificans* and *C. versicolor,* were observed by Mr. John A.

Elliott, near Lamar, Arkansas, and an account of them published in the December number of *Phytopathology*. The trees had been heavily pruned and also grew on low, heavy soil. The parasitism of the fungi was evident from the fact that the trees had made a vigorous growth for one or two seasons following the cutting back, and had been checked by the destruction, not only of the heartwood of the older parts of the trees, but of the sapwood as well.

The campaign for the control of stem-rust of wheat through the eradication of the common barberry has aroused a widespread and effective sentiment against the shrub. This has resulted in the actual removal of the following estimated percentages of the plants located by a survey conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture: Northern Illinois, 60 per cent.; Wisconsin, 90 per cent.; Minnesota, 80 per cent.; North Dakota, 90 per cent.; South Dakota, 80 per cent.; Nebraska, 75 per cent.; and Iowa, 75 per cent.

Studies in the Mosaic Diseases of Plants by George W. Freiberg, published in the *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* for April, 1917, contains many conclusions, among them the following: (1) Mosaic diseases are not caused by an unbalanced inorganic nutrition. (2) The infectious substance is an enzyme and not a "virus." (3) The reproduction of the mosaic enzyme can be accounted for on purely physiological grounds, but the factors which originally induced its formation are still unknown.

The Laboratory of Forest Pathology of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. D. A., Dr. James R. Weir in charge, has been removed from Missoula, Montana, to Spokane, Washington, where it will be permanently installed in a fire-proof building. The most intensive work of this laboratory is centered in the great white pine forests of Idaho. To promote pathological investigation in this region, a permanent field station will be established; also a forest pathological museum.

All future communications should be addressed to Laboratory of Forest Pathology, Spokane, Washington.

Insect galls are interesting to most mycologists, who will be delighted to know that a large and valuable bulletin on this subject, fully illustrated with many drawings and photographs, has recently been prepared by Dr. E. P. Felt and published as *Bulletin 200 of the New York State Museum.* It is called A Key to American Insect Galls and one wonders how many pages would be required to fully describe the American species of galls if 310 pages have to be devoted simply to a key. It may be said, however, that a good many descriptive terms are employed in the key and that the excellent figures supplement these brief descriptions in a highly satisfactory manner. Dr. Felt is to be congratulated upon the preparation and publication of this much needed work.

On Christmas Day, the following specimens, most of them in a growing condition, were collected in Saxon Woods, near White Plains, and presented to the Garden by Mr. W. H. Ballou.

Daedalea confragosa, D. quercina, Elfvingia megaloma, Hexagona alveolaris, Lenzites betulina, Fomes populinus, Polyporus Polyporus, Bjerkandera adusta, Coriolus nigromarginatus, C. versicolor, C. prolificans, Tyromyces chioneus, Coriolellus sepium, Irpiciporus lacteus, Hydnoporia fuscescens, Poria subacida, Corticium effuscatum, Stereum lobatum, S. complicatum, Merulius tremellosus, Exidia arborea, Auricularia Auricula, Guepinia spathularia, Claudopus nidulans, Panellus stypticus, and *Geaster hygrometricus.*

A paper recently published in the *Journal of Agricultural Research* by Stakman and others on the plasticity of biologic forms of *Puccinia graminis* deals with questions of deep significance and importance. Among the conclusions reached are the following:

No one so-called bridging host nor any combination of such hosts enabled any biologic form tried to infect naturally immune plants nor to infect a highly resistant plant more readily.

Many attempts were made to increase the virulence of biologic forms on resistant hosts by successive transfers to these hosts. The results indicated that rust forms do not gradually adapt themselves to resistant or semicongenial hosts.

Biologic forms seem to be roughly analogous to pure lines. Plus and minus fluctuations may occur, but there is always a tendency to return to normal.

The facts given in this paper do not support the conclusions of previous workers that the pathogenicity of biologic forms is easily changed by host influence.

From the practical standpoint the constancy of biologic forms is of great importance. Breeding for rust resistance can proceed with considerable assurance that the same rust will not adapt itself quickly to new varieties.

GEORGE FRANCIS ATKINSON

Professor Atkinson died in the City Hospital, Tacoma, Washington, on November 14, 1918, from pneumonia following an attack of Spanish influenza. He was recently relieved of active work at Cornell University, where he had been Head of the Department of Botany since 1896, to prepare his extensive notes and photographs of the fleshy fungi for publication. In order to make this work more complete, he was engaged in collecting fungi in regions he had not previously visited, his last explorations being on Mt. Rainier and about Tacoma.

Professor Atkinson has served as a member of the Advisory Board of *North American Flora,* published by the New York Botanical Garden, since the beginning of that work in 1905; and was an associate editor of the *Botanical Gazette.* His publications cover a wide range of subjects, including plant pathology, morphology, taxonomy, embryology, heredity, life-history, etc. He was the author of a number of botanical text-books and numerous contributions to botanical journals, making a total of over 125 titles.

The enthusiasm and energy displayed by Professor Atkinson in personal research and in directing the investigations of others has scarcely been equaled. To his students in all parts of the country, as well as to his professional associates, his unexpected death comes as a great shock.

W. A. MURRILL

EXTENSION OF WORK IN PLANT PATHOLOGY

Mr. J. A. McClintock has resigned his position as Extension Specialist in Cotton, Truck and Forage Crop Diseases, to which he had been appointed under a joint project between the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Georgia State College of Agriculture, and will hereafter be located at Experiment. During the coming year it is planned to enlarge the work materially, both along extension and investigational lines. Plans are under consideration which will result in the appointment of two or three additional specialists. Mr. McClintock's successor will be appointed as soon as a suitable man is located. In addition there will be a specialist who will devote his entire time to corn diseases, especially the root rots. A third specialist will have charge of the disease of small grains, the emphasis being directed toward the perfection of control measures for smut and rust.

The Plant Disease Survey of the past season has been wonderfully productive of results. The college now has in hand complete data as to the prevalence and extent of each of the commercially important diseases. During the coming year it is planned to detail a specialist in disease survey to the state for several months to assist in the work.

The laboratory and greenhouse facilities for the use of the Division of Plant Pathology will be considerably augmented and the investigative work will be extended as a result. All research work and extension activities for the state will be carried on directly from the college, under the direction of the Division of Plant Pathology.

J. B. BERRY

ATHENS, GEORGIA.